

REMARKS

Applicants thank Examiners Shukla and Montanari for the interview conducted March 9, 2006 in connection with this application, and providing their suggestions for reply to the Office Communication.

In connection with this Communication, applicants elect the invention of Group VI, presented as claims 32-38 in view of the amendment filed November 18, 2005, which is directed to a method of treatment or prevention using a soluble Gas6 receptor. By the present amendment, applicants have accordingly withdrawn claims 39-44 as directed to a non-elected invention. Applicants reserve the right to prosecute these withdrawn claims in this or a continuing application.


Applicants again note that the present election is made with traverse for the reasons discussed in the Response filed November 18, 2005. In particular, applicants note that claim 39 relates to a single inventive concept that includes the use of Gas6 inhibitors in the treatment of endothelial activation or dysfunction, as well as dependent claims 40-44 which correspond to several non-elected groups.

Enclosed is a Petition to extend the period for replying to the Office
communication for one month, to and including March 25, 2006.

Please apply any charges or any credits to Deposit Account No. 03-2095.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: 24-March-2006



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